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The Arlington Advocate

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Humans have a ball with hedgehogs

Critters dress up, show their talents

BY BROOKE LEISTER
STAFF WRITER

As Harmonie scampered across the judging table, her tiny camouflage hat was slightly askew and the plush camouflage military helicopter strapped to her prickly back threatened to topple over.

Paying homage to the armed forces, the African hedgehog, dressed in all of her military glory, was one of several contestants in the costume contest at Saturday's Boston Pog Party, sponsored in part by the Hedgehog Welfare Society. Hedgehogs are affectionately called "pogs."

Arlington resident Susan Goetcheus helped organize the party, which made its debut two years ago. About 75 people were expected to attend Saturday's event held at Calvary Church.

Goetcheus, who got her first hedgehog four years ago, said each little animal has its own personality.

"They can be wild and different. Some of them like

■ SEE HEDGEHOGS, PAGE 17



STAFF PHOTO BY HOLLY SCHMIDT

Harmonie parades her military costume for others during Saturday's Boston Pog Party at Calvary Church. The event, sponsored in part by the Hedgehog Welfare Society, included a costume contest and the Hedgehog Olympic Gym-Bar-E (IHOG), which included the garden slalom, the shot put and a floor exercise.

Man held for raping, beating ex

BY LES MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

A Boston man was arraigned in his hospital bed Monday afternoon after he repeatedly raped and beat a Memorial Way woman early Sunday morning.

Andre White, 33, of Boston, has been charged with rape, armed burglary, kidnapping, assault with the intent to murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, larceny of a motor vehicle and intimidating a witness. The suspect pleaded not guilty and was ordered held on \$100,000 bail.

"We'll work vigorously with prosecutors to ensure that the perpetrator of these heinous crimes is indicted and convicted," said Police Chief Fred Ryan.

According to police, White went to a former girlfriend's house around 1 a.m. Sunday. The victim thought White was someone else and opened the door. He forced his way into the residence, grabbing her by the throat and choking her, according to police.

Armed with a large kitchen knife, White allegedly beat and raped his ex-girlfriend throughout the night. At around 8 a.m., White told the victim he was going to take her and her child, who was asleep upstairs, and "implied his intent was to kill the victim, the victim's daughter and himself," according to police.

She was able to free herself of White, ran outside her apartment and screamed for

■ SEE RAPE, PAGE 17

Hilferty's designs bring praise

Native wins Tony Award

BY ANNE-MARIE SELTZER
CORRESPONDENT

Susan Hilferty walked down the red carpet at the Tony Awards in New York City June 6 wearing an unusual long coat that she had designed. Made of sheer black material, it was hand embroidered with the signatures of the 300 men and women who had worked with her on the Broadway production of "Wicked."

A short time later, the Arlington native stood on the stage of Radio City Music Hall to accept the 2004 Tony Award for costume design for "Wicked," a musical chronicling the early lives of Glinda the Good Witch and the Wicked Witch of the West. The Tony Awards, which celebrate excellence in the American theatre, are presented annually by the League of American Theatres and Producers and American Theatre Wing.

For anyone who has ever worked on Broadway, winning a Tony is a moment to savor. For Hilferty, it marked her third major award this season for "Wicked." Unlike Smarty Jones, she won a Triple Crown — Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Tony Awards.

"When I learned I was going to the Tonys, I knew I wanted to go in the arms of everyone who had worked on Wicked," said Hilferty, who was nominated for a Tony in 2002 for "Into the Woods."

"If I won, I knew I wouldn't have time to thank everyone. The coat was the only way to include everybody. People have committed their



One Arlington native Susan Hilferty's costume sketches for Elphaba in "Wicked." Hilferty was honored with a Tony Award for costume design.

lives to this show for over a year."

Hilferty is the daughter of the late Ruthe and Gerard Hilferty. Her mother was a teacher, her father was an inventor and she has five siblings.

According to Hilferty, she's insatiably curious and fear-

less — traits that she learned from her parents.

"That people are afraid of making a mistake seems insane," she said. "We have presidents making mistakes and they clearly don't get punished. Fear isn't a useful emotion."

■ SEE HILFERTY, PAGE 17

Officials upset with unions over coalition bargaining

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Selectmen, town officials and union leaders sparred over health insurance bargaining Monday night with both sides accusing the other of dealing in bad faith.

The Board of Selectmen tabled a motion to accept the unions' offer until the full board could be present. Selectman Charles Lyons was out of town.

Arlington Education Association President Virginia Fuller told the board the union membership had consulted with legal counsel and decided they would pursue coalition bargaining under state law Chapter 32B, Section 19. That differs from the unions' previous letter to the town, in which Police Ranking Officers Union President John Serson said the

unions would consider an agreement under current labor conditions that would accept all the provisions of Section 19, but would include a sunset provision to end the arrangement.

"Our legal counsel has advised us to proceed with Chapter 32B, Section 19," said Fuller. "We have an agreement to present to you tonight and we hope to work with you to save the town money."

Selectman Kevin Greeley stopped Fuller and asked why she had not negotiated with Town Manager Brian Sullivan on a separate agreement with the same clauses as Section 19. Greeley asked Sullivan if the two sides had met. Sullivan said they had not and Monday's presentation was the first he had heard of the unions' intentions.

"This really bothers me because this is the first time I'm hearing it," said Sullivan, who asked the unions consider a written agreement that matches Section 19, but provides a definite date of expiration. He added "all of a sudden it sounds like they are reneging."

Town Counsel John Maher said the unions were acting in bad faith by skipping the discussion of a sunset provision. He advised the selectmen not to accept the agreement.

"This is clearly in violation of good faith," said Maher. "It is contrary to what was agreed upon... This is really a step backward."

Maher said the board made it clear the unions should forge a deal with the town manager before coming back to the selectmen.

■ SEE COALITION, PAGE 17

Nation's leaders in town tonight

The National League of Cities Board of Directors and Committee Leadership meeting is being held this week in Boston and Arlington. Selectman Charles Lyons, who is the first selectman to serve as president of the NLC in its 80-year history, invited more than 60 officials to the Boston area for its summer meeting.

As a way for our guests to learn a little about the community while also informing Arlingtonians about the NLC, The Advocate has printed two pages that include stories focusing on Lyons, Arlington's biggest issues, a descrip-

tion of the NLC and a list of invitees to this week's events (see Pages 14-15).

The meeting brings together the top leadership of the National League of Cities, including its officers, Board of Directors and the chairs of every standing committee and constituency group to explore issues affecting cities and towns and carry out organizational business.

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest municipal organization with a membership of more than 1,600 cities and towns of all sizes. Its member-

ship also includes the 49 state municipal associations, which collectively represent more than 18,000 municipal governments throughout the United States. Lyons was elected to lead the group last year at its annual convention in Nashville, Tenn. NLC's mission is to strengthen and promote cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance.

The group will visit Arlington tonight for a reception and dinner at Town Hall. The NLC is paying for the event, which is for invited guests only.

Sin-sational

"Sin: A Cardinal Deposed" ends run at the Regent Theatre.

Page 16

Holiday Monday

In honor of Independence Day, The Advocate's offices will be closed Monday. The deadline for submissions for next week's paper is 5 p.m. Friday.

INDEX

Arts	28	Obituaries	26
Comment	10	Religion	25
Learning	8	Seniors	31



FOR THE RECORD

POLICE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Police Department log. The log is available to the public.

Monday, June 21

- At 8:08 a.m., an Arlington High School student called police after a video camera was taken from a desk drawer. Police are investigating.

- At 8:37 a.m., police responded to Route 2 concerning a stolen 35-foot aluminum street pole and street light. The 200-pound pole was reportedly stolen from the sidewalk area along Route 2 and is valued at \$1,750. Police believe the pole may have been stolen for scrap. Police are investigating.

- At 1:33 p.m., a Webster Street resident reported her car was keyed.

- At 1:43 p.m., police received a call from a Broadway business concerning a shoplifting. The suspect stole more than \$400 worth of hygiene products and left before police arrived. He is described as a white male, in his mid-30s, who was wearing blue jeans and a white shirt. A witness also said the man walked with a limp.

Wednesday, June 23

- At 10:31 a.m., police recovered a black bag on Massachusetts Avenue that contained items that were stolen from a motor vehicle on Drake Road in May. Police returned the items to their rightful owner.

- At 3:41 p.m., police

Wednesday, June 23

- At 11:59 a.m., police arrested Kenneth C. Amaral, 26, 195 Gladstone St., East Boston, and charged him with assault, intimidating a witness and a warrant for larceny of a motor vehicle. Officer Kristine Powers made the arrest.

Thursday, June 24

- At 5:25 p.m., police arrested Ioannins V. Hronas, 40, 54 Marathon St., and charged him with domestic assault and battery. Officer Michael Hogan made the arrest.

- At 9:10 p.m., police arrested three juveniles and charged them with possessing alcohol. A woman told

responded to Mary Street concerning an 86-year-old missing woman. Officers found her sitting in the backyard.

- At 9:16 p.m., a Webster Street resident called police after someone stole four small white lights from her front lawn.

- At 11:19 p.m., a Bates Road resident reported a person removed a nozzle from a house and threw it through a window.

Thursday, June 24

- At 3:31 p.m., a Coolidge

Arrests

officers Michael Hogan and Douglas Cronin three youths were drinking beer on Massachusetts Avenue. The officers responded to the scene near Marathon Street and found the youths with alcohol. Hogan made the arrest.

Friday, June 25

- At 5:54 p.m., police arrested William P. Minogue, 18, 97 Bow St., and charged him on a warrant for burning a motor vehicle. Inspector Sean Kiernan made the arrest.

Sunday, June 27

- At 3:43 a.m., police arrested Ohannes Ortiz, 18, 67 Everett St., Apt. 2, and

charged him with malicious destruction of property more than \$250 and disorderly conduct. Officer Chad Brown responded to a disturbance call at Jason and Irving streets. A Jason Street resident said a group of youths entered his house looking for a confrontation. A fight ensued and lamps and glass items were broken. A screen door and large ceramic pots were also damaged. The group left, but police identified the suspects. A short time later, police responded to Everett Street regarding another disturbance. Police found Ortiz, who was a suspect in the Jason Street case, allegedly yelling obscenities. Brown made the arrest.

Road resident reported a man knocking on doors. Police spoke to the solicitor. There was no problem.

- At 4:44 p.m., a Windmill Lane reported a solicitor.

- At 7:19 p.m., a Peter Tufts Road resident called police about a solicitor.

Saturday, June 26

- At 1:30 a.m., police responded to Hilton Street concerning a teenager trying to open car doors. Officers were unable to locate the teen.

Road resident called police after discovering \$250 was missing. There was no forced entry.

- At 5:53 p.m., police responded to Egerton Road after a dog bit a woman on her left hip. The bite did not puncture the skin and the woman did not need medical attention.

- At 9:37 p.m., police received a call after a person stole a small tree from in front of Dallin School.

Friday, June 25

- At 3:01 p.m., a Richfield

Meetings

Tuesday, July 6

- Patriots Day Celebration Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. at Bowes Realty, 1010 Massachusetts Ave.

Wednesday, July 7

- Affordable Housing Task Force meets at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first-floor conference room.

Thursday, July 8

- Cultural Council meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Jefferson Cutter House.

Friday, July 9

- Fair Housing Advisory Committee meets at 10 a.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first-floor conference room.

Busy time for jakes

Firefighters extinguish house fires

BY LES MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

Arlington firefighters battled two houses fires within minutes of each other last Monday.

The Fire Department received a call from an Oxford Street resident reporting a fire. She was on the first-floor of a two-story Cape when her smoke alarms sounded. She investigated and found a fire in a second-floor bathroom. She rushed downstairs, picked up an extinguisher and ran back up to the bathroom where she tried to put out the fire, according to the Fire Department.

Not being able to extinguish the blaze, she ran back downstairs, called '911' and fled the building with a roommate.

Engines 2 and 4, Ladder 1 and Rescue responded to the scene and found smoke and fire coming from a second-floor corner of the home. Engine 3 was called to the scene to serve as the Rapid Intervention Team, which oversees firefighter safety.

However, as Engine 3 responded to Oxford Street, another resident called "911" five minutes after the initial call. The Gray Street resident reported a basement fire, according to the Fire Department.

Instead of continuing to the Oxford scene, Engine 3 was dispatched to Gray Street and a Somerville engine responded to Oxford. Firefighters found the home "fully charged with smoke and the occupant outside on the porch," said Deputy Chief Wayne Springer.

After hearing a fire alarm sounding, the woman had already tried to extinguish the fire and was somewhat successful. Firefighters, including a Somerville tower, finished the job in the basement within five minutes and ventilated the home. The fire was contained to contents in the basement and is estimated at \$3,000 damage.

Meanwhile, on Oxford Street, firefighters were able to knock down the fire and contain the blaze to the second-floor bathroom and adjoining bedroom. Damage is estimated at \$80,000. One firefighter suffered a hand laceration and was treated at the scene.

'If the incidents had escalated, it could have been a lot more difficult to contain them in the room of origin because of the lack of personnel.'

WAYNE SPRINGER,
DEPUTY CHIEF

After firefighters extinguished the blaze, Springer, along with Police Inspector Sean Kiernan and Fire Lt. Rob Paone investigated the Oxford Street fire. They interviewed the home's three residents and Springer returned the next day with a representative from the state Fire Marshal's office and an accelerant-sniffing dog, Tubbs. The canine was unable to find any ignitable fluids, according to the Fire Department.

Investigators are still reviewing both blazes and are unsure how they started.

Given the recent staffing cuts to the Fire Department, Springer said the residents and firefighters were lucky the fires were not larger.

"If the incidents had escalated, it could have been a lot more difficult to contain them in the room of origin because of the lack of personnel," said Springer.

Clarification

There has been some misunderstanding about information contained in the June 17 article entitled, "Animal control officer wants to educate public."

A sentence which stated "People like to watch foxes play with their kittens in the backyard, but they should not feed them," should have clarified that "kittens" refers to the foxes' own offspring. The Advocate was not indicating that domestic cats or their offspring should interact with foxes.

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Symmes negotiations inch along

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

An agreement between the town and potential Symmes Hospital redeveloper EA Fish is still not complete.

Redevelopment Board Chairman Ed Tsoi told the selectmen Monday market forces have pushed the Symmes deal about "two-and-a-half months" behind schedule.

"It looks like we may be asking you for a special Town Meeting in September," said Tsoi, concerning the zoning change needed before construction can begin.

The medical building at the site has become a sticking point in the negotiations between the town and developer EA Fish. The town has demanded there be some sort of medical use at the site, but the market for a residentially-located medical facility has withered in the last few years, said Tsoi.

"The one thing that not

surprisingly has turned out to be a challenge has been the medical office space," he said.

The original concept called for a building of at least 50,000 square-feet, but that may not be workable, said Tsoi. A smaller space designed more efficiently could hold the same level of service now present on the hill.

When to build the medical component and the final sale price have also surfaced as issues during negotiations.

"We want to introduce the topic of timing into the project," said Tsoi. Instead of building everything at once, the project will likely be built in phases.

Tsoi added the concerns of neighbors have also showed the deal. The Redevelopment Board wants to make sure the neighbors are fully protected under the agreement and understand how the process will unfold.

"We have had several meetings with not the Symmes Advisory Committee, but the

abutters and neighbors," said Tsoi. "We should not assume the typical citizen knows the intricacies of zoning."

Tsoi said his board will try to do a better job of communicating what's happening to the neighbors.

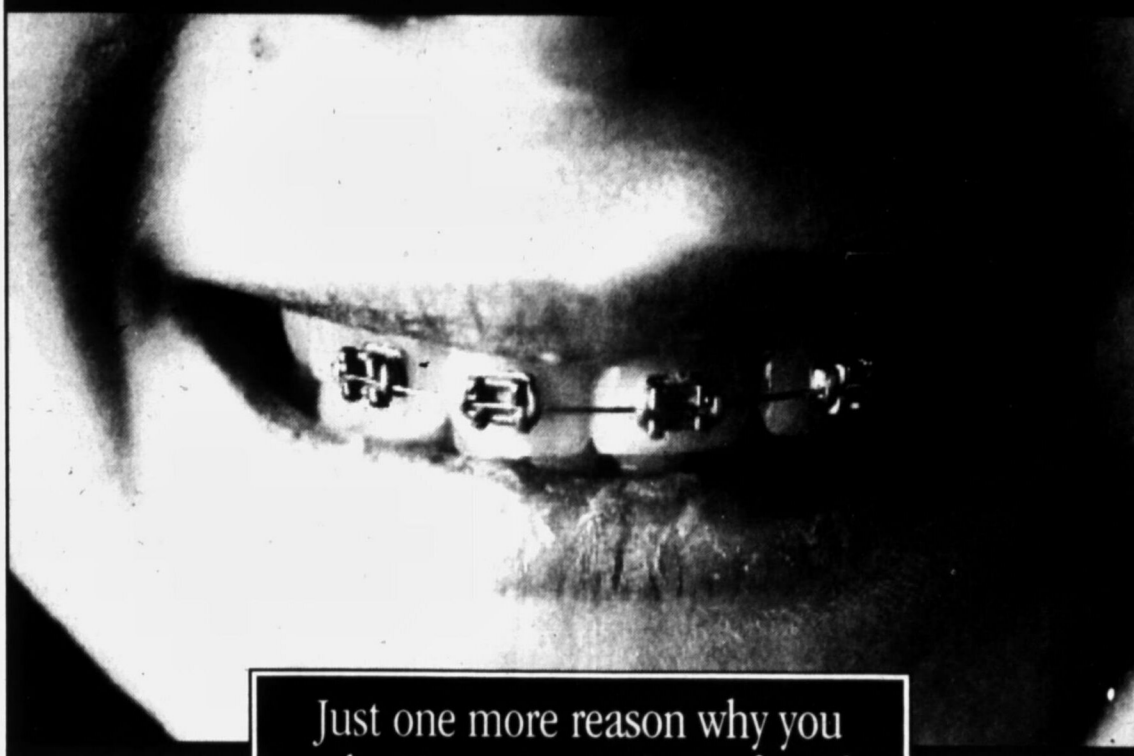
"The neighborhood needs a better understanding of what zoning changes may be and what kind of control the town — through the Redevelopment Board — has on the project," he said.

While the issues still at hand are significant, the deal remains almost completely done, he said.

"If the deal was a 12-inch ruler, we would be at about 11 and a quarter," said Tsoi.

The Symmes property was bought by the town so Arlington could control its development. Current plans include more than 240 residential units and a medical office building on the site, along with public amenities like a vista park overlooking Boston and the surrounding hills.

Johnny needs braces.



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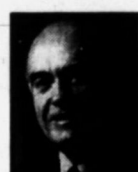
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Concert series kicks off with Jump City Blues

Back by popular demand is the Arlington Chamber of Commerce's popular "Arlington at Night" free summer concert series.

On Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. this July, the Chamber invites music lovers to the Jefferson Cutter House Lawn in Arlington Center to sample great music and food. Rain dates will take place the following evening.

This year's series is truly a Chamber enterprise with member involvement from beginning to end. Produced by Firefly at Night, each concert is exclusively sponsored by a different Chamber business. Chamber food establishments will prepare picnic food for sale. The Arlington Advocate is the event media sponsor and the videotaped series will be broadcast on Comcast's cable channel.

New this year, concert program advertisers (all members) will be on

hand with raffles and giveaways. This year's line-up is as follows:

• July 7: Mirak Chevrolet-Hyundai-Polaris presents the popular rockin' blues band, Jump City Blues. Brigham's and Beaujolais Catering will be on hand to sell food for summer time eating. Stop by and visit representatives from The Arlington Advocate, Charles River School of Shiatsu, Krazy Karry's and Cambridge Savings Bank.

• July 14: Century 21-Adams presents the Dennis Brennan Band. Brennan has been called "one of the deans of the local roots-rock scene." Bombay Classic Indian Cuisine and Scutra will be the Chamber restaurants providing picnic fare this evening. Advertisers include The Ninth House, American Alarm and Communications and MVS Publishing.

• July 21: Citizens Bank presents Rev-

olutionary Snake Ensemble, described as a funk and street beat brass band, playing New Orleans and other modern improvised celebratory music. Bombay Classic Indian Cuisine and Flora return to feed us again. Be sure to say "hi" to The Arlington Center for the Arts and Comcast.

• July 28: The Regent Theatre presents Entre Amigos, a band that plays classics from the Brazilian samba and bossa nova repertoire. Food will span the globe as Olé Mexican Grill and Café Levonya tickle our palates with international dishes. On hand for the last concert will be RCN, Body Access and Hawthorn Suites.

For further information about the event, call 781-643-4600, visit www.fireflyatnight.com or send an e-mail to the Chamber at info@arlingtonchamberofcommerce.org.

Chase looking to unseat Markey

BY LINDA PINKOW
CNC STAFF WRITER

Ken Chase says he is waging a fight for democracy.

"I think our democracy at the congressional level has been corrupted," Chase said at a meeting with Community Newspaper Company editors last Friday.

Chase, a Republican, is running against U.S. Rep. Ed Markey (D-Malden), who has been a congressman since 1976.

"I think Ed Markey is a principal example (of that corruption)," said Chase. "The first and guiding and main priority of Ed Markey is to stay in office."

Markey and other congressmen have corrupted politics by raising "truckloads of money to intimidate potential challengers," Chase said.

Although Markey has had several electoral challengers over the years, Chase said Markey has had only one "bona fide" opponent since he was first elected to Congress in 1976. He defines "bona fide" as "reasonably well-funded, well-supported and well-known."

Chase added he considers himself a bona fide candidate.

"I'm certainly well-funded by the state and national (Republican) party," he said.

The 7th Congressional District comprises 19 towns and cities, ranging geographically from Framingham to Watertown to Stoneham and varying demographically from Weston to Medford to Revere.

Born and raised in Medford, Chase lived in the North End of Boston from 1993 to 1998, then bought a house on Unity Avenue in Belmont, close to the Cambridge border. He lived in Belmont from 1998 to 2002. Since then, he has lived just over the line in Cambridge, approximately 30 feet from the Belmont border, he said.

Belmont is part of the 7th District; Cambridge is not.

"We've been looking for several months to re-establish residency in Belmont," he said.

Although the law does not require candidates to live in the district where they are running, Chase said, "I think it's important to know the district to represent it."

Massachusetts would benefit from having a Republican representative in Congress, he said. As for Markey, "Let's just say he doesn't have a whole

lot of friends on the other (Republican) side of the aisle."

Voters should "send somebody there (to Congress) who's not on the left wing," he said and characterized himself as being "in the middle, which is where I think most of the people in this district are."

Chase said he supports the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law, but he has not taken a position on publicly-financed elections. "I haven't studied that particular issue yet," he said.

"There are so many issues that I'm trying to get my arms around," he explained.

Asked about the possible closing of Hanscom Air Force Base — an important issue in several communities in the district — Chase said he hadn't studied that issue yet, but added, "In an ideal world, you'd keep everything open."

He praised President George Bush's tax cuts, thanks to which, "the economy is roaring now," he said. To back up that assertion, he cited stock market increases since 2002 and a recent increase in job creation. He would vote to make the tax cuts permanent, he said.

He said the loss of manufacturing jobs was less significant because "Manufacturing is not the future."

He would try to promote "the jobs of the future," by investing in research and development and technological infrastructure, he said.

He also supports free trade agreements, such as NAFTA.

"In order to maintain our standard of living, we need to promote greater international commerce," he said. "The most important thing is that we dominate the global economy."

We live in a "knowledge-based economy," he said, and "the key to our future" is quality education for all children.

He supports President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act and "I would fund it," he said.

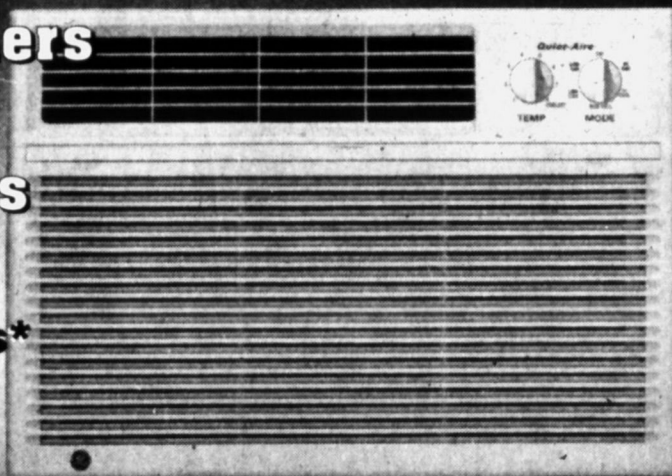
Chase attended private schools, including Malden Catholic High School and Boston College. His children, who are 5 and 8, currently attend St. Peter's in Cambridge.

Chase acknowledged his views might be controversial in Massachusetts, but he said, "I'm not running to be popular. I'm running to solve problems."

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Canoe trips are planned

Looking for a way to relax on a summer evening? Join other Mystic Valley Watershed residents for an evening paddle along the Mystic River.

This summer, the Mystic River Watershed Association is planning three trips along the Mystic — Thursday, July 8, Thursday, Aug. 12, and Thursday, Sept. 9. Each trip will meet at 6 p.m. at the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse, 32 Shore Drive, Somerville — near Mystic Ave. and Route 28. The group will canoe until dusk.

There will be a \$5 fee for the July and September trips. The Aug. 12 trip, the annual Fingering Fling, is free and is supported by the Alewife/Mystic River Advocates. Space is limited — so reserve early.

The trips will be cancelled if it rains.

Please RSVP: John at j_gillette@hotmail.com or call him at 617-628-4665 or stop by the boathouse to sign up 617-623-6137. (Please include a contact number in case it rains.)

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Local peace activists plan vigil Monday

On Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day weekend, Arlington United for Justice with Peace will hold a special vigil, focusing on dissent as a vital part of patriotism.

Everyone is invited.

Mark Twain wrote: "Patriotism means supporting your country all of the time, and your government when it deserves it." Put another way: "Dissent is Patriotic," which is the theme of this event.

The vigil will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Arlington Center, corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Pleasant Street.

Peirce Field, DPW yard cleanup begins

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

The cleanup of Peirce Field is underway.

According to Town Counsel John Maher, work at Peirce Field started on schedule and will continue throughout the summer and into the fall.

"The construction schedule is being adhered to," said Maher. "The day after school got out they began work there. The first piece of business is to replace the existing piece of culvert that's going to be replaced."

Excavation at the site will be completed by the time students return to school in the fall. The work is scheduled to continue into next spring with the fields reopening in fall 2005.

The entire schedule was designed to make sure there wasn't a chance kids could be exposed to any harmful agents. Work at the Public Works yard on Grove Street began last month.

"We have dust control and we have redundant systems in place," said Maher. "If we get

any kind of complaints about odors or dust, we will take immediate efforts to water down the site and control the dust."

To make sure there is no exposure to chromium-laced dust, air sensors have been placed around the work site. If any of those sensors detect unacceptable levels of material in the air, work will stop and corrective measures will be taken, said Maher.

The cleanup comes almost 10 years after unacceptable levels of chromium and other toxic materials were found in the ground under Peirce Field and the town yard.

The material came from the DPW yard and an old chromium factory along what was once Cutter's Mill (which was filled and is now Peirce Field). Three companies, Keyspan Energy Delivery New England (formerly Boston Gas), Honeywell International and Massachusetts Electric Co., owned what was once that factory and have joined the town in the cleanup effort.

The cleanup is now estimated to cost \$9.4 million, which will be paid by the three industrial parties. Any further cost overruns will be divided among the four parties through a dispute resolution process. The three companies, however, will pick up the costs up front to keep the project moving forward. The resolution effort will come once work is completed.

The original agreement had the industrial parties reimbursing the town for construction of a field house on the site. The parties agreed to pay two-thirds of the cost, up to \$2.67 million. With the economic downturn and town support on cash, the prospect of building the field house is unlikely so the parties have now agreed to pay the town up to \$1.67 million in up-front costs for improvements at the football field. The field will be lined with new field turf, which acts and feels like grass, new bleachers, a concession stand and press box.

The remaining \$1 million originally planned for a field

house can still be used to help offset the facilities construction at a future date.

A town-owned culvert under the site will also be replaced as


part of the work. While the job is estimated at \$1.1 million, the town will pay \$250,000 for the project, with the industrial parties covering the rest.



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David A. Leone

THE FIRST STEP

Many slip-and-fall accidents occur on stairs, often due to stair construction and design deficiencies. To initiate the investigation of a claim, analysis of the premises is a cost-effective first step. According to the Basic Building Code set by Building Officials & Code Administrators International, a minimum tread of nine inches and maximum riser of 8.25 inches is required for single-family dwellings. Many claims allege that the stairway was deficient and did not conform to code. In such cases, dimensional measurement of the stairs is necessary to compare with building code requirements. Handrails are also often required by code for stairways and should also be investigated for availability and proper height. Lighting is another factor.

Your rights are only as good as your ability to protect them. If you have been injured and wonder about your rights, a legal professional can help you understand your options. Our firm has over 50 years of experience in the areas of personal injury; business law, real estate, wills trusts & estates, probate, family divorce law, workers' compensation, bankruptcy, and civil litigation in both the State and Federal courts. We are able to take the time to listen to you and offer sound advice. Call our office for an appointment.

NSTAR continues improvements

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Work is progressing, but an NSTAR official told the Board of Selectmen Monday there are still parts of Arlington yet to be addressed.

The board will have a consultant review NSTAR's progress and report back later this summer.

NSTAR representative Bill Zamparelli said Arlington Heights has not yet been upgraded. The occurrences of power blips in the area are attributable to an old system and to animal strikes on the wires.

Even with the annoying blips and slight drag in the schedule, outage hours for customers are significantly lower in Arlington, said Zamparelli.

"It's a factor of seven less than what we had seen in 2001," said Zamparelli, referring to the summer when a number of residents organized to protest power outages in town.

Verizon, which is responsible for the poles in Arlington, has been a good partner in installing the new, taller posts along the town's roads. The taller poles are needed because

NSTAR is adding bigger wiring to their system. Zamparelli said Verizon will complete the next phase of pole replacements by the end of September. Because of the hectic schedule, removing double-poles has been put on the back burner.

Selectman Kathleen Dias said she was concerned about some of the customer service residents have received.

"One of the reasons people call on weekends is because they are home and they are more cognizant of outages and to be told to call back on a weekday is outrageous," said Dias.

When a squirrel chews into a power line or lands on a transformer, the circuit will automatically open, killing power to the homes nearby (and most likely the squirrel). Once the critter drops off the line, the circuit closes and flows back to the residences. The same process happens when a tree branch hits a wire, said Zamparelli.

"We have trouble in more tree-lined communities than in urban settings," said Zamparelli of the blips. "If we didn't have the reclosure units, what we would see is longer outages."



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Bill focuses on prison abuses

Rep. Edward Markey (D-Malden), a senior member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, recently introduced legislation to stop an extra-judicial CIA practice of sending terrorism suspects to foreign governments known to engage in torture.

"The prison abuses at Abu Ghraib were a national disgrace and have rightly been the subject of anger and condemnation," said Markey. "But another torture practice continues to go on without any public attention. Under the name 'extraordinary rendition,' the CIA reportedly sends terrorism suspects, sometimes on the flimsiest of evidence, to foreign countries that are known to employ torture in prisoner interrogation. This practice is against all U.S. and international law and is a moral outrage — and it must be stopped."

The practice of extraordinary rendition, the extra-judicial removal of people in U.S. custody both domestically and abroad to foreign governments that are known to use torture, has received little attention because of the degree of secrecy with which it occurs.

Attention was drawn to the practice in September 2002 when Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen, was seized while in transit to Canada through JFK Airport and sent to Jordan and later Syria at the request of the CIA. While in Syria, Arar was tortured and held in a dark, 3-by-6-foot cell for nearly a year. He was ultimately released and detailed his story to the media upon his return to Canada.

Although the numbers are classified, outgoing CIA director George Tenet testified to the 9/11 Commission in October 2002 that more than 70 people had been subject to rendition before Sept. 11, 2001.

Human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union, have detailed numerous other cases and are pursuing litigation in some of

them. On June 21, the Canadian government launched an investigation into Arar's case.

The Markey bill directs the State Department to compile a list of countries that commonly practice torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during detention and interrogation and prohibit rendition to any nation on this list, unless the secretary of state certifies the nation has made significant progress in human rights.

The bill explicitly permits legal, treaty-based extradition, in which suspects have the right to appeal in a U.S. court to block the proposed transfer based on the likelihood that they would be subjected to torture or other inhumane treatment.

"Extraordinary rendition is outsourcing torture and it is morally repugnant to allow such a practice to continue."


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Local Democrats meeting July 13

The next meeting of the Arlington Democratic Town Committee will be Tuesday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room at Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.

All interested Democrats are cordially invited.

The committee will be talking about plans for working on local and national campaigns. For more information, visit <http://www.arlingtondems.org/> or call Aimee Coolidge, chair, at 781-646-5339.

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LEARNING

Stratton students show off their writing, artwork

Stratton Elementary School recently hosted the first-grade literary tea, now a time-honored tradition that is one of the highlights of the school year.

This special event celebrates the writing achievements of the young authors and illustrators in the first grade. The children, dressed in their finest, read from books that they had written and illustrated during the school year, with proud parents and other family members huddled around, listening attentively.

As Daniel Matlack, a first grader, said, "I felt proud and happy to get all dressed up and show my work."

For the literary tea, the classrooms were transformed into stylish tea rooms, with beautiful flowers decorating lace-topped tables. Silver and porcelain trays were filled with tasty delicacies... chocolate-dipped strawberries, cucumber dill sandwiches, fruit kabobs and more. Parents poured tea from teapots into heirloom china cups, as the young writers sipped their tea (some more enthusiastically than others).

The high tea was the culmination of a year-long Writer's Workshop that was held weekly in the first-grade classrooms. Every Friday morning, a group of four to seven parent volunteers in each class worked with the students, helping them develop their ideas into stories and then working with them to edit what they had written.

Students learned the diligence of the writer's craft, often spending several Friday sessions writing and illustrating the same story, before moving onto a new one.

During the year, the first graders also shared their stories with their classmates at Author's Circle. Each week, several students would read aloud one of their stories, soliciting comments from their fellow authors.

According to Andrea Congdon, one of the parent volunteers, "It was fascinating watching the first-graders improve their skills in Writer's Workshop throughout the course of the year. They showed so much pride in their work when two or three children were chosen each week to



Julia Harris shows her family her work during Stratton Elementary School's recent first-grade literary tea.

read their 'books' to their classmates. Not only were they working on writing at

Writer's Workshop, but also learning how to speak in public."

Financial aid available for Lesley Ellis families

Lesley Ellis School recently announced its parent organization, Schools for Children, Inc., will offer a new program to students in need of financial assistance in which they will underwrite the cost of financial assistance to eligible families.

They will be providing up to 100 percent of tuition for eligible students who apply and enroll in grades 1-5 for the 2004-2005 academic year and have demonstrated need.

According to Ted Wilson, executive director of Schools for Children, "We are committed to support the recently expanded elementary program and hope families will take advantage of this educational opportunity."

Grade 5 will be new at Lesley Ellis this fall and continues the academic program already in place in the younger grades. In addition to a small student/teacher ratio, the school offers elementary students Spanish, music and physical education classes two times per week.

Elementary students also participate in an annual musical production and a collaborative venture with Arlington Center for the Arts allows for Lesley Ellis students to have weekly art classes in ACA studios.

Deanne Benson, head of Lesley Ellis said, "We are excited about this opportunity to make the elementary program available to more families. We have a great thing going at Lesley Ellis and want to share it. It's important we get the word out about the support we are getting from Schools for Children."

Lesley Ellis School is a progressive elementary school serving children age 3 through Grade 5. The school provides a developmental approach to education, offering ambitious goals for learning and a strong anti-bias curriculum.

The school is located at 41 Foster St. For more information, please visit www.lesleyellis.org or call Tricia Moran at 781-641-1346 to schedule an appointment to see the school.

Mystic Valley Learning Center plans public forums this month at Watertown locale

The Mystic River Learning Center is holding two public forums for all those interested in learning more about their program and offerings. They will be held on July 15 and July 20 both at 7:30 p.m. at the center at 111 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (located in the Phillips Congregational Church).

The center brings together current and new homeschoolers to enjoy the adventure of learning. It offers academic classes, independent learning, art, theater, music, community service projects, educational games, physical activities and field trips. It is currently open three days a week from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Some benefits of this unique setting include: a nurturing environment that fosters learning; a multi-age atmosphere unconstrained by grade levels; a child-centered perspective that respects individual learning styles; a place where children can learn from and teach one another; a friendly community of home-schooling parents who can provide support and assistance, especially to new homeschoolers; and an educational setting where parents have a voice in all policies and curricula.

REAL ESTATE TODAY


by Robert Bowes, CRB, CRS

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McKenna tries different beat as an AHS teacher

As the culmination of a new literature-based unit on alcohol awareness, Arlington Police Officer, David McKenna taught four sophomore English classes Monday, June 7 at Arlington High School.

McKenna focused on the central role of police officers: Prevention. He cleared up questions students had about driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and clarified what happens if adolescents are apprehended while driving under the influence or are in the presence of alcohol.

McKenna played an interactive game, "Cops, Kids and Cars." Students volunteered to sit in desks arranged in a car-like configuration as they simulated real situations when citizens are stopped for questioning.

Using humor, storytelling and knowledge, McKenna's audience was rapt in all four classes. Teachers and students asked a variety of questions regarding enforcement of the Massachusetts law concerning alcohol and driving and McKenna cleared up confusion about the police work featured in the novel students were reading.

McKenna has had a long relationship with the schools. He served as an Arlington School committee member for 15 years and as a member of the Arlington Police Department for 30 years.

Many of the students who saw him teach remembered his work in the elementary schools while in the DARE program. This spring, English teachers Maryanne Orlando-O'Brien and Carrie Jewell started teaching a new novel, "O.U.I." by Cape author Robert F. Pease when English Department Chair Elise M. Frangos heard about the book's popularity among Cape high school students.

Cape administrators told her the book resonated with student drivers and provoked fruitful discussions in their schools. The novel opens with the police officers notifying a couple of their daughter's

'He is an enormously effective teacher.'

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CHAIR
ELISE M. FRANGOS

vehicular death.

As the story unravels, the father discovers a local businessman who was operating under the influence hit their beloved daughter. He tries to ensure justice is served and joins forces with his daughter's boyfriend to determine what really happened on the night of her tragic death.

The English faculty piloting the text felt it was well-timed on the crest of prom season and while students take driver's education to earn their licenses. Teachers reported students were eager to read and finish the books and "many meaningful discussions transpired from the novel."

Prior to teaching the book, on May 13, the Safe Schools Task Force, Police Department, English Department, Board of Youth Service and Parent Forum Committee for the Arlington Public Schools along with the District Attorney's office held a community forum titled, "O.U.I....A Reflection on Alcohol in Society."

Many of the participants in the forum held at the high school Library Media Center read the book "O.U.I." All parents of children in classes reading the book were notified about the book prior to its adoption and were invited to the forum.

The essential question discussed that evening was: "How do we continually raise the consciousness of safety and alcohol through a partnership of schools, police, youth services and parents and produce a comprehensive approach to alcohol education in our community?"

Some parents at the forum felt the book should be adopted for all grade levels.

A community read to support the English initiative is planned. Books are available at Robbins Library and at the AHS Media Center. Several high school faculty and staff members have read the book.

McKenna and Frangos along with forum participants agree the integration of health issues coupled with a provocative story lead to increased student awareness, responsible decision-making and safety. Frangos and her teachers believe McKenna's teaching made a great contribution to the unit and they plan on having him as a regular speaker.

"He is an enormously effective teacher," said Frangos.

PTO Thrift Shop stays open during summer

The PTO Thrift Shop for the Arlington Public Schools will continue to be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the summer with the exception of the weeks beginning July 4, Aug. 1 and Sept. 1 and perhaps additional weeks in late August. Please check the thrift shop Web site, www.ptothriftshop.com or contact a Thrift Shop representative for updated information.

The thrift shop is currently

looking for donations of the following items for use in the store: a digital camera, a hand-held vacuum cleaner in good condition, large plastic storage bins with tight-fitting lids, pant/skirt hangers (clip-type), a cash register, an open shelving unit on wheels, free-standing multi-level shoe racks and metal shelving (5 to 6 feet).

Located in the basement of the Fox Library at 175 Mass Ave., in East Arlington, the

all-volunteer Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. All proceeds benefit Arlington Public Schools.

For information on volunteering, contact Tomi Langerman at 781-641-9969 or krausman-2@rcn.com.

For all other information, contact Mary Ellen De Natale at medenatale@earthlink.net or Sara Billingsley at 781-648-6988.

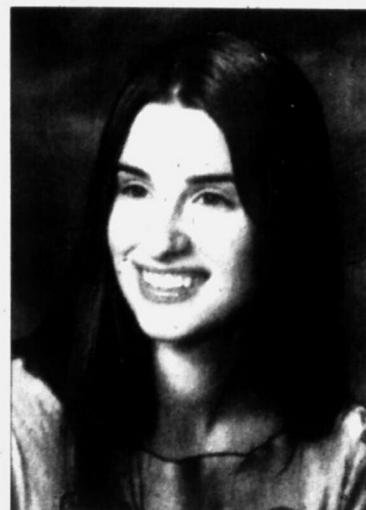
Steele honored at ceremony

Serena Steele, graduate of Arlington High School Class of 2004, received the Excellence in Italian Award during the Arlington High School Award Ceremony on June 3.

Steele placed first in the National Italian Exam in years 2004 and 2002; and has also placed within the top six in the National Spanish Exam over the past four years.

When asked to describe Steele's language ability, former Italian teacher at Arlington High School Pauline Carrara said, "Serena is a once in a lifetime student. She is very special."

Steele served as secretary of the National Honor Society chapter at Arlington High School and as co-captain of the Arlington High School Varsity Volleyball team.



Serena Steele

She plans to continue her studies with a double major in Italian and Spanish as a Dean's Scholar at Boston University this fall.

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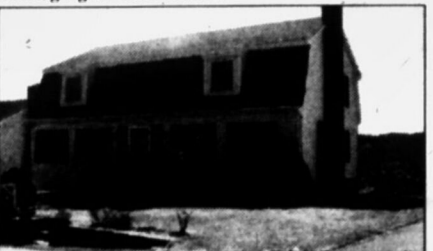
ARLINGTON — Immaculate 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath Cape! New roof, furnace, appliances, C/A, hardwood floors, and more! Large fenced yard. Walk to New Park and P.O. School! A must see! \$435,000

Listing Agent- Susan Rudd



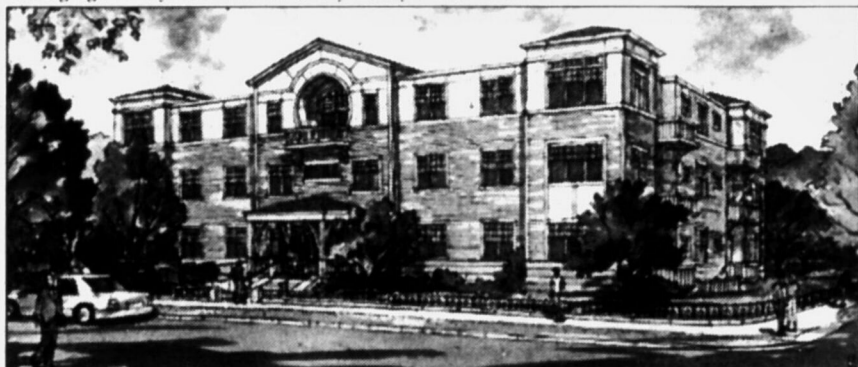
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Listing Agent- Abe Larbah



ARLINGTON — Sunny Gambrel Colonial, private artist studio, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, fireplace living room, formal dining room, MBR with bath and walk-in closet, 1st floor office or bedroom, large eat-in-kitchen, spacious deck with great views of Boston & beautiful sunsets, easy access to all. \$589,000

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Listing Agent- Lynne Lowenstein



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Listing Agent- Louise Ivers



ARLINGTON — Charming 9 room Colonial with flowing floor plan, including a formal dining room leading to a deck, kitchen with breakfast room and a wonderful yard! \$549,000

Listing Agents- Pat White & Mary Sevlund



ARLINGTON — 11 rooms with beautiful seasonal views of Mystic Lake! 4.5 baths, hardwood floors, wall-to-wall fireplace living room. Great in-law on lower level, walk-out with fireplace, 2 car garage and more! \$679,000

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Listing Agent- Susan Rudd



ARLINGTON — Gracious English Tudor near Brackett School and Robbins Farm. Fireplace living room, gorgeous woodwork & hwd flrs, skylit eat-in-kitchen, & skylit 1st flr family room. Lovely yard is a gardener's delight! \$589,900



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Comment



EDITORIAL

Attack shows community is not immune

It's easy to forget the violent nature of some people.

For the most part, Arlington Police doesn't have to deal with violent crimes. The community seems as though it is under a cocoon of safety — though more dangerous neighborhoods are within a few miles.

However, there are cases like the rape and torture that occurred on Memorial Way this week that snaps us back into realizing there are some cruel people out there and we are lucky there are men and women whose job it is to protect and serve.

The case on Memorial Way involves a woman and her ex-boyfriend, who forced his way into her home around 1 a.m. Sunday and proceeded to choke her. The suspect, Andre White, was only getting started with the horror he allegedly inflicted on his ex-girlfriend.

The man also reportedly raped and beat the woman while her child slept upstairs. This violence continued to around 8 a.m. when the victim was able to run outside and scream for help.

White fled the scene, stealing the victim's car. This is the second time White has allegedly stolen the woman's car in the past month. On June 3, Arlington Police arrested the man for that crime.

Boston Police later arrested the man after he tried to hang himself with his belt buckle. The knot gave way and he plummeted three stories to the pavement where police converged on him.

White has been charged with rape, armed burglary, kidnapping, assault with the intent to murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, larceny of a motor vehicle and intimidating a witness.

White is now in a Boston Medical Center hospital bed where he is nursing broken legs, pelvis and internal injuries. It was from his hospital bed that he was arraigned. He pleaded not guilty and is being held on \$100,000 bail. An Arlington police officer is stationed at his hospital room's door.

It goes without saying this crime is sickening.

It's time like these we count our blessings the Arlington Police Department is on call, ready to help us.

Letters to the editor policy

Do you have an opinion about a story you read? Do you disagree or agree with an editorial or another letter writer? Are you pleased or displeased about something?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, let your voice be heard and write a letter to the editor.

To be published, here is a quick idea of what we want:

- A signature, your street address and either a daytime phone number, home phone number, or both. We will not print the information — only your name, street name, and title (where applicable). We will not print anonymous letters.

- Letters should be limited to 400 words.

- We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, and

civility. The Advocate respects differences of opinions, but we also demand respectful discourse.

- If we receive multiple letters on the same subject, we may run a sampling of opinion.

- The Advocate will not run letters from the same person in consecutive weeks.

- Letters must be dropped off at the Advocate drop box — Community Safety Building lobby, 112 Mystic St. — by noon Monday or delivered by 5 p.m. Monday to the office at 9 Meriam St., Lexington 02420.

- Readers can also fax their letters to 781-674-7735 by 5 p.m. Monday.

- E-mail is also an option at arlington@cnc.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

Supports Spanish in schools

We are among the growing number of parents, educators and politicians in Arlington and across the country who understand that elementary second language study delivers a lot of "bang" for the educational buck.

Besides the practical benefit of learning Spanish in our country, the positive impact of early second-language study on students' literacy, test performance and geography skills is well documented; and recent research has identified many other cultural, academic, social and cognitive benefits.

Elementary Spanish has been hailed as one of the hallmarks of the improved public education we have been able to offer Arlington's children in recent times.

Since the 5-year-old elementary Spanish program was eliminated from next year's school budget, members of the Arlington Spanish Network have been meeting with the School Committee, principals and Superintendent Kay Donovan to see what kind of Spanish instruction might be possible to bring in during the school day and/or before or after school.

We all agree elementary Spanish is a valuable program; we would have a live Spanish program if funds were available; the town has invested a great deal in this program; and we should help our students retain the Spanish they have learned over the past five years. Progress is being made on the structure of an equitable interim program, though much work remains to be done.

We support the Arlington Spanish Network's plans for the 2004-2005 school year (see www.ArlingtonSpanish.org), which include: 1. conducting a fund-raising campaign; 2. assisting the APS with a survey to assess elementary families' interest in second language education; 3. continuing Spanish enrichment in the form of in-school events, extracurricular classes and activities and community events like Town Day and Fiesta 2005; 4. working with Comcast's ACATV to produce live and recorded Spanish programming for broadcast at various times during the day; 5. working with the individual elementary schools to suit an interim program to the needs of their students; and 6. purchasing audio/visual and computer programs and making them available to the elementary schools and families. This option could make good use of the audio/visual and computer equipment that the schools already possess.

Although we would like to see elementary Spanish instruction continue, even in a less expensive audio/visual form during the school day so that it can benefit all of our students, we do understand the scheduling difficulties the principals and teachers face with the put-backs, plus MCAS and No Child Left Behind requirements.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Whatever happens with elementary Spanish in 2004-2005, we will continue to support the goals of keeping our students exposed to second language learning and world cultures and the search for funding to bring back our excellent live elementary Spanish program.

Nicole Libresco
Hardy Parent
Marjorie Howard and
Bob Sprague
Stratton and Ottoson
parents
The Rev. Linda Fisher
Privitera
Thompson School
community
State Rep. Jim Marzilli
Tom Putnam and Phyllis
Wentworth
Dallin parents
Sandra Torello (Spanish
teacher) and Julio Cuervo
Bishop parents
and 46 other co-signers

No problems at high school proms

I would be remiss in not writing to speak about the recent graduates and the Junior Class of Arlington High School.

Last November, we had a semi-formal that ended very poorly in regards to behavior of those attendees. Arlington High was asked not to return to the hotel that hosted us.

After the event, a committee of teachers, guidance counselors, staff members and students from both the Junior and Senior Class met and discussed ways to improve our proms, in terms of safety and most importantly a night that will reflect the wonderful kids of Arlington.

The students that met faithful under the supervision of Mr. Woodcock developed a plan. This plan came after many sessions of give and take on both sides. It was a great bonding of students and adults. The students asked and were able to organize two mandatory parent meetings and a contract that would have to be signed by both parents and students.

The meetings were held on a Sunday afternoon and a Monday evening prior to the Junior Prom. Two hundred plus parents filled the cafeteria on both of those days. Mr. Woodcock explained the reasons for the meeting and then handed it over to the young adults. They were wonderful, they spoke clearly, from their heart and their message was heard.

The end result was two proms that went off without any students getting suspended or disciplined in any way. I want to thank first our students and secondly, Mr. Woodcock for taking the time to listen to the students. I wish Mr. Woodcock luck in his new endeavors and feel sorry that he will not be a part of the Class of 2005.

Thank you, Mr. Woodcock.
Ellen M. Digby
Court Liaison
Town of Arlington

Town making a mistake

Once again, in the last few days, the Symmes Hospital has come into this community's life as it has for decades ("Thousands line up for shots," June 24 Advocate).

The Symmes Hospital, the Symmes Arlington Hospital, just saying it makes one feel assured and secure.

It should be plain enough for any Arlingtonian that a huge mistake is about to be made at the site of the Symmes Arlington Hospital.

Connie and George
McKinley
Brand Street

What happened to support?

I was glad to hear the Symmes Hospital facility came through for the dozens of people who ate at Friendly's during the Hepatitis A disclosure.

I recently came across a Nov. 2, 1989 Arlington Advocate article about three towns — Arlington, Belmont, and Lexington — teaming up to support keeping the Symmes open. The article quoted, Dr. Morris Dratch of Lexington saying, "Symmes is really a tri-community hospital... and the reasons for keeping in open include: the proximity for emergency treatment, a growing older population in the area and reliable facilities for on-going out-patient treatment for cancer, diabetes and cardiac problems."

Perhaps, it's time that someone consider Dr. Dratch's words.

Elizabeth M. Ferrarini
Mystic Street

Symmes is important

The importance of maintaining adequate capacity at Symmes to treat victims of emergency locally was shown clearly recently by the thousands receiving inoculations against Hepatitis A at Symmes after the scare caused by an infected food preparer at Arlington's Friendly's restaurant.

Lahey Clinic asserts the inadequacy of emergency facilities and large number of diversions of arriving ambulances etc. is due to hospital closures in its surrounding region. Lahey does not mention this excessive hospital closing is in large part due to the actions of Lahey itself as evidenced in its role in the shutting down of the hospital and emergency services and excellent intensive care unit at Symmes Hospital leaving only a small portion of the hospital in use for medical purposes.

In what looks like a monopoly created by Lahey's withdrawing of many medical services from Arlington and consolidating them in their own campus, they now appear to be emphasizing the more lucrative high-end specialties,

such as cardiology for niche clientele rather than emphasis on general community needs.

Lahey's activities and apparent lack of concern for the community have made it difficult if not impossible to protect the Symmes Hospital buildings (a significant portion of this is Class A Medical Facility) from total demolition including the relatively new North Wing (there are no plans even to mothball the facility for use in any future large-scale emergency).

Medical facilities at Symmes are in great danger and as a result a cursory risk assessment of the area shows that once the Symmes facility is demolished there will be no adequate access to trauma care for victims of large-scale emergencies in the region previously serviced by Symmes Hospital.

Patricia B. Worden
Jason Street

Letter writer was wrong

David G. Pearson's letter ("Don't build at former Symmes," June 17) reflects a complete misunderstanding of the history of the former hospital campus. No burying ground, Native American or other, is known to have been located there.

Pearson possibly is confused between the Symmes Hospital site and the farm of Stephen Symmes Jr., which was about a mile away toward Winchester. Its handsome Greek Revival farmhouse is still standing at 215 Crosby Road. One legend has it Squaw Sachem's burial mound was located somewhere on the Symmes farm; another suggests she was laid to rest in Medford; still another says Winchester. Nobody knows for sure.

In any event, one certainty is Squaw Sachem did not deed the Symmes farmland to anyone in 1701 as she had been long dead by that time. And Pearson's statement that there was an Indian reservation in Arlington lasting 200 years between 1700 and 1900 is equally untrue.

In his will, Symmes left his farm to be converted to hospital use, but with only 2.5 acres of land that contained underground springs, this plan did not prove to be feasible. The hospital ultimately was built in 1909 on 10 acres of the Town Wood Lot up the hill from the almshouse on Summer Street. This land was donated by a 1902 vote of Town Meeting and its trees had been actively harvested for generations to be used as fuel and timber. The Symmes Hospital campus has not been "virgin wilderness" since Colonial times.

Among the scant facts to be found in Pearson's letter is his perhaps hyperbolic description of Stephen Symmes Jr., as "magnanimous and visionary." As a distant cousin of Symmes (who left no direct descendants), I enjoyed reading the intended compliment.

Richard A. Duffy
Appleton Street

■ SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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EDITOR
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Fax: 781-674-7735
E-mail: arlington@cnc.com

Brooke Leister
STAFF REPORTER
Phone: 781-674-7724
Fax: 781-674-7735
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